

## CONTACT US

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## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Thank you for your interest in Missouri public education. We invite you to learn much more. Please visit our website for information about school laws, funding, Department responsibilities, school data, and the broad range of programs serving school districts, educators, students, adult learners, and much more.

[dese.mo.gov](http://dese.mo.gov)

Dear Friends,

More than ever, the future of our state depends on our collective will to ensure the superior preparation and performance of all Missourians. Our citizens and stakeholders want—and expect—our students to be ready for school, ready to graduate, ready for postsecondary education, ready for work and ready to compete internationally. Ensuring student preparation and successful transitions between early childhood, K-12 education, higher education and the workforce must be a priority if we hope to sustain a consolidated vision of improvement and success for Missouri.

Our strategies must draw on the best practices and most innovative ideas from across the state, nation and world. We must coordinate our services with those at the state and community levels to build a system of support for every school and for every child.

Please do not hesitate to call upon us to assist you with any education information you may need.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris L. Nicastro".



Chris L. Nicastro  
Commissioner of Education

## Our Goals

1. Top 10 performance
2. Early childhood education
3. Effective teachers and leaders
4. Operational efficiency and effectiveness

*“Educate and inform the whole mass of the people... They are the only sure reliance for the preservation of our liberty.”* –Thomas Jefferson, 1786

- Oversees educational programs statewide
- Administers policies and regulations of the State Board, state law and federal law
- Distributes and monitors state and federal funds to school districts and charter schools
- Reviews and accredits school districts through the Missouri School Improvement Program
- Monitors 28 state and 32 federally funded programs
- Provides technical assistance for unaccredited districts and turnaround schools
- Evaluates and monitors educator preparation programs
- Develops standards for educator practice
- Aligns curriculum to state academic/national industry standards
- Operates State Schools
- Administers adult learning/rehabilitation services
- Manages database collections and provides instructional and operational information to schools and the public
- Advises districts on finance and governance issues
- Oversees school district audit reports
- Administers the federal school lunch, breakfast and snack programs
- And much more!

## Our Vision

*Missouri public schools: the best choice...the best results!*

## Our Mission

*To guarantee the superior preparation and performance of every child in school and in life.*

### In 2009-10:

- Missouri public education served 917,851 total students, grades preK-12.
- The median district enrollment was 610 students, ranging from the largest district with 25,046 students, in St. Louis Public Schools to the smallest with 22 students in Revere.
- Missouri had 70,185 teachers in K-12 classrooms and 2,410 teachers in preK.
- More than 18,000 students attended 51 charter schools in the Kansas City and St. Louis school districts, representing 29% and 36%, respectively, of total district enrollment.
- Over the past five years, the proportion of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch has grown from 41% to 47%.
- 13% of students received Special Education Services.
- 510 of Missouri's 522 school districts used MOREnet as their technology provider.

### 2009-10 Statewide Student Performance

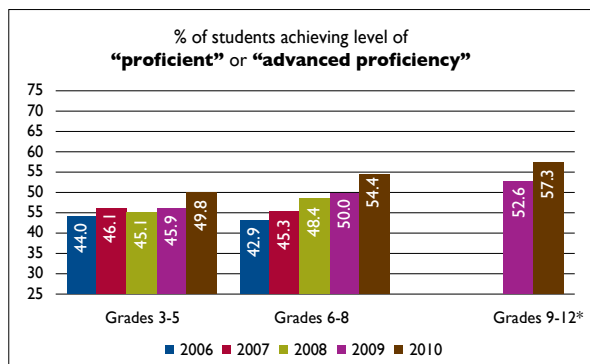
- K-12 Attendance Rate 95.0%
- High School Graduation Rate 85.7%
- High School Dropout Rate 3.5%
- Percent of Students Scoring Proficient or Advanced on NAEP
  - ◇ 2009 Mathematics – 4th Grade 41%
  - ◇ 2009 Mathematics – 8th Grade 36%
  - ◇ 2010 Reading – 4th Grade 35%
  - ◇ 2010 Reading – 8th Grade 35%



# STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

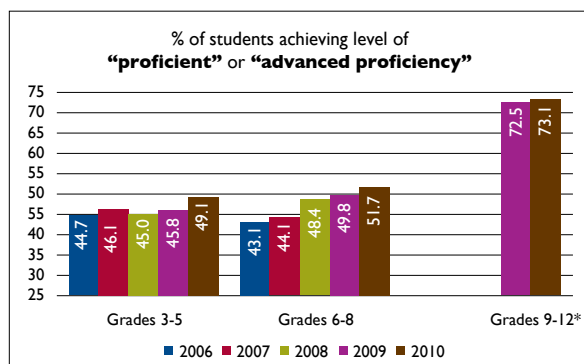
Statewide, students are making steady academic progress. However, we have a long way to go to achieve Top 10 status.

## Missouri Assessment Program Mathematics



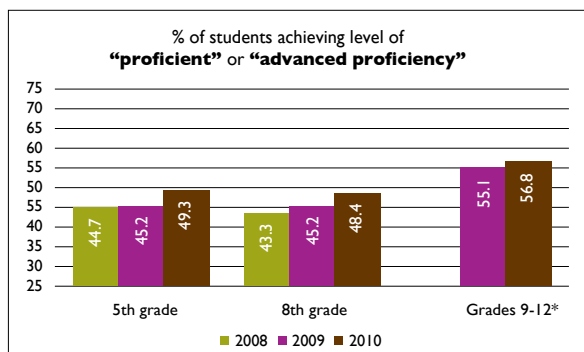
\*Algebra I end-of-course assessment replaced grade 10 requirement in 2009.  
Source: Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

## Communication Arts



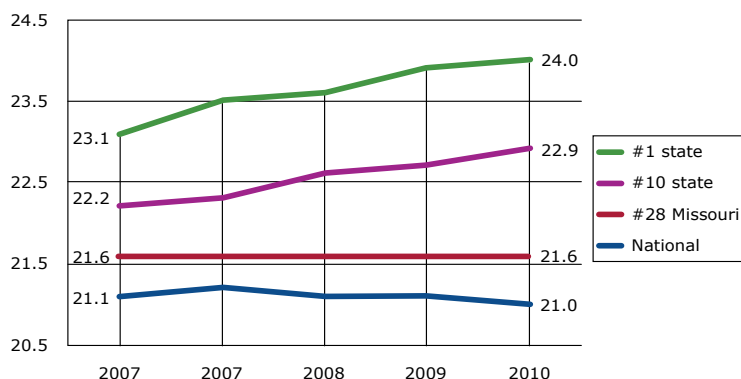
\*English II end-of-course assessment replaced Communication Arts grade 11 requirement in 2009.  
Source: Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

## Science



\*Biology end-of-course assessment replaced Science requirement in 2009.  
Source: Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

## Average Composite ACT Scores



Source: www.ACT.org

**How do Missouri students stack up nationally on college-bound exams?**

## The ACT®

- Missouri's ACT scores have held steady for the past six years. While above the national average, the 2010 average composite score of 21.6 placed it 28th among all states in the nation. The lowest average composite score of a top-10 state was 22.9 on a 36-point scale. Sixty-nine percent of all Missouri graduates took the ACT test last year.

## Advanced Placement

- To be in the Top 10 of all states, 20% of all our seniors would have to score a 3 or better on an AP exam while in high school. Currently, only 7.1% receive a 3 or better. This ranks us 46th nationally.

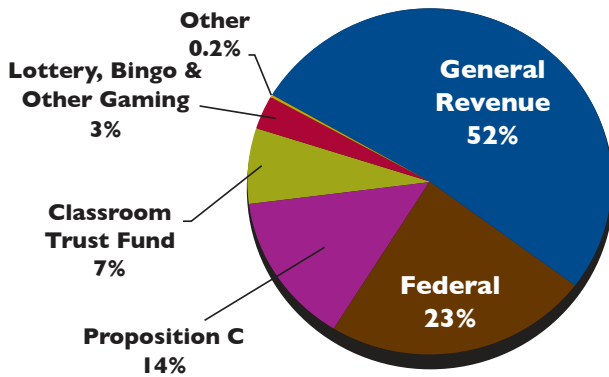




# THE DEPARTMENT



## Sources of Revenue – FY2011: \$5,363,104,874



## Did You Know?

Total School Lunches Served: 102 Million

*100 million lunches would feed one-third of the nation's population.*

Total Transportation Miles Traveled: 127 Million

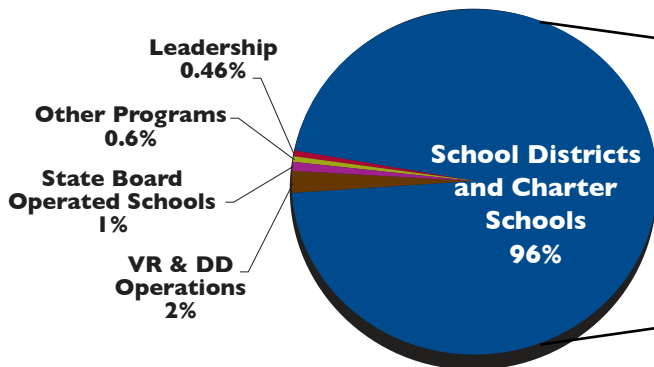
*Collectively, Missouri buses traveled the circumference of the earth 5,090 times.*

Average Number of Students Transported by Bus Daily: 561,519

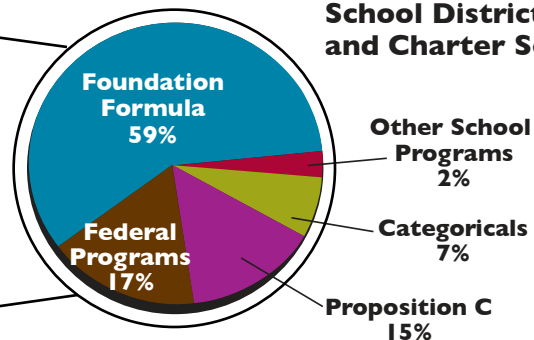
*If all the students across the state were to unload their bus at Mizzou's Faurot Field, the volume of students would completely fill eight stadiums - each day.*



## Expenditures – FY2011: \$5,363,104,874



## Distribution to School Districts and Charter Schools



95.95% of all funding flows to schools and public education programs. Less than one-half percent is spent on Department administration and operations.



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